IN 2 MONTHS ... TIME RUNS OUT!

SECRET WARS

NEW AVENGERS®

HICKMAN
WALKER
HANNA
MARTIN

MARVEL 031

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

"THERE WAS AN INCURSION ON MY WORLD. THE BLACK PRIESTS DESCENDED FROM THEIR EARTH TO OURS. NO ONE WAS SPARED. NO ONE ESCAPED--EXCEPT ME.

"I ESCAPED INTO THE *LIBRARY OF WORLDS...*

"...A GIFT FROM THE IVORY KINGS THAT EXISTS OUTSIDE THE OBSERVABLE MULTIVERSE. WAITING FOR ME WERE THE BLACK SWANS. THEY SAID MY WORLD WAS AN OFFERING TO THE GREAT DESTROYER, RABUM ALAL.

"RABUM ALAL IS COMING FOR ***EVERYTHING,*** AND WHEN YOU UNDERSTAND ***WHAT*** HE IS--***WHO*** HE IS--YOU'LL KNOW THAT I WAS RIGHT. THEN YOU WILL DIE, THINKING OF ME... WHO WILL BE SO VERY LONG GONE."

"REED, DIDN'T THE SWAN SAY THE LIBRARY WAS DESTROYED?"

"PERHAPS, T'CHALLA, WE MIGHT NEED TO REVISIT WHAT IS AND IS NOT ACCEPTED TRUTH REGARDING HER."

WE NOW HAVE A KEY.

SO EACH BLACK PRIEST HAS A LETTER AND TOGETHER THEY MAKE A WORD, WHICH IS LIKE CASTING A SPELL?

OF A SORT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT WORD WE USE TO DESTROY A WORLD IN ORDER TO STOP THE COLLECTIVE HEAT DEATH OF THE UNIVERSE? "LIFE."

BUT I AM NOT ONLY THE LEADER OF THE BLACK PRIESTS, I AM THE ***SORCERER SUPREME.*** I DO NOT SPEAK ***LETTERS***--I SPEAK ***WORDS.***

AND I KNOW ***ALL OF THEM.***

S.H.I.E.L.D. AVENGERS

STEVE ROGERS | HAWKEYE | MARIA HILL | WAR MACHINE | INVISIBLE WOMAN | CAPTAIN AMERICA | CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE ILLUMINATI

BEAST | HULK/ DOC GREEN | REED RICHARDS | BLACK BOLT | BLACK PANTHER

CAPTAIN BRITAIN | AMADEUS CHO | IRON MAN | DOCTOR STRANGE | YELLOWJACKET

NEW AVENGERS

SUNSPOT | CANNONBALL | SMASHER | MANIFOLD | BLACK WIDOW

SPIDER-WOMAN | SHANG-CHI | VALIDATOR | POD | ZEBRA KIDS | A.I.M.

MULTIVERSAL AVENGERS

HYPERION | ODINSON | STARBRAND | NIGHTMASK | ABYSS | EX NIHILO

THE CABAL

NAMOR | THANOS | BLACK SWAN | TERRAX

MAXIMUS | PROXIMA MIDNIGHT | CORVUS GLAIVE

“RABUM ALAL”

WRITER: JONATHAN HICKMAN

ARTIST: KEV WALKER

COLOR ARTIST: FRANK MARTIN
LETTERER: VC’s JOE CARAMAGNA
COVER ART: IN-HYUK LEE
VARIANT COVER ART: LAURA BRAGA

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JAKE THOMAS
EDITORS: TOM BREVOORT with WIL MOSS
EDITOR IN CHIEF: AXEL ALONSO
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PUBLISHER: DAN BUCKLEY
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

© 2015 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

EARTH-1903990.

THERE IIIIIIT IIIIIIS.

A DOOR.

A DOOR TO OTHER WORLDS.

HURRY. HURRY...

SUMMON THE EYE...TELL HIIIIIM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN.

AH!

EYE OF EYES. LOOK!

A SCOUT RETURNS, AND IIIIT APPEARS WE HAVE SEEN A GLORIIIIOUS THIIIIIING.

TOO MANY CLOUDS OF LATE. TOO FEW RAYS OF HOPE...

I AM UNABLE TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE HIVE MIND OF THE PRIESTHOOD, SO FORGIVE ME IF I RESERVE JUDGMENT REGARDING....

GREAT EYE...

WE HAVE FOUND A DOOR TO THE LIIIIIBRARY OF WORLDS.

UNMARKED?

UNGUARDED?

NO.

THREE BLACK SIIIISTERS STAND WATCH.

DAMN.

AND HOW LONG DO WE HAVE UNTIL THIS EARTH COLLIDES WITH--

THIIIIS WORLD WIIIILL UNDERGO IIIITS IIIIINCURSIIIION IIIIN LESS THAN ONE UNIIIIT OF STANDARD CELESTIIIIIAL TIIIIME.

THEN WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, DO WE?

SEND EVERYONE...

"TAKE THE DOOR."

AAIIIIIEE!

BLACK PRIESTS!

SISTER! JUST LIKE OLD TIMES...

THEY'VE COME FOR THE DOOR.

NO! NEVER BEFORE LIKE THIS...

THEY'VE SENT TOO MANY-- POSSIBLY ALL.

GO! SEAL THE DOOR!

"I WILL HOLD THEM BACK AS LONG AS I CAN."

HURRY, SISTER! HURR--

AAIIEEE!

THOOOOOOMM!

TOO LATE.

LOCKED AND SEALED UP TIIIIGHT.

WE TARRIIIIED, EYE OF EYES... WE WERE TOO SLOW.

A LOCKED DOOR ISN'T MY CONCERN...

I'M WORRIED THAT ONE OF THEM ESCAPED.

WE ARE MANY. THEY ARE FEW.

STILL, ALL THE OTHER WORLDS OUR ORDER HAD MARKED OVER THE YEARS AS HAVING DOORS TO THE LIBRARY HAVE BEEN LOST TO INCURSIONS...

JUST LIKE THIS ONE SOON WILL BE. SO, ABOUT THAT LOCKED DOOR?

YES, EYE...

OVER THE YEARS, I'VE LEARNED ANY JOURNEY INTO AN UNKNOWN REALM IS FULL OF PERIL.

AND NO PRIEST HAS EVER SET FOOT INSIDE THE LIBRARY DOOR...

I WOULD RATHER THEY NOT KNOW WE ARE COMING.

GOOD FORTUNE TO HAVE A KEY.

PSSSHHHH!

SO MANY DOORS...

SO MANY PATHS FROM WHIIIICH TO CHOOSE...

GREAT EYE, HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE TO GO?

THE SWANS SERVE THEIR MASTER, AND THAT IS WHO WE SEEK...

THE GREAT DESTROYER-- RABUM ALAL.

AND JUST AS WE BELIEVED, THE LIBRARY APPEARS VAST. ALMOST BEYOND COMPREHENSION.

BUT AS WE HAVE WITNESSED WITH OUR OWN EYES, THESE SWANS ARE FERVENT...THEY WORSHIP...

AND ALL HOLY THINGS MUST BE REVERED. AH!

THERE. THAT IS THE WAY MOST TRAVELED.

THAT IS THE PATH TO THEIR LIEGE...

AND THE ONE WE MUST FOLLOW.

IT'S AMAZING, REALLY. EACH ONE OF THESE ROOMS...FULL OF SOME STRANGE WONDER.

WE KNOW THESE. LONG-LOST SENTIIIIENT KEEPERS OF EXOTIIIIC KNOWLEDGE.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, CATALOGED AND STORED.

OF COURSE! IT DOES REASON THAT THE LIBRARY WOULD BE AN ACTUAL...*AHEM*, LIBRARY.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE ARE?

LIIIVIIIING REPOSIIITORIIIIES OF IIIIINFORMATIIIION. HARDDRIIIIVES COMPOSED ENTIIIIIIRELY OF LIIIIIGHT.

STAY ALERT.

WE'VE REACHED AN INTERSECTION OF BRANCHING WORLDS.

THE FOOTSTEPS ARE BECOMING MORE DENSE...

I BELIEVE WE ARE GETTING CLOSER.

BE PREPARED FOR--

OH! THERE... IN THE NEXT CHAMBER...

"A SWAN."

=HURK!=

=HURK!=

You are in the void, priest. A vacuum.

This is a quiet room, and there are NO WORDS here.

WHETHER IT'S THE WHITE PATH OF ILLUMINATION OR THE DARK ARTS OF THE MOST MIDNIGHT HOUR...

THE FIRST THING YOU LEARN ABOUT MAGIC IS PRECISION.

IT'S LIKE ANY OTHER SCIENCE, REALLY...

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS.

YES, I AM THE GREAT EYE OF THE BLACK PRIESTS.

AND ***THE WORDS***, WHICH I HAVE SO RECENTLY MASTERED, NOW FAIL ME AS THEY DO THEM.

BUT I AM ALSO THE ***SORCERER SUPREME...***

A MASTER OF MANY THINGS.

I'VE SPENT MY LIFE LEARNING THE MINUTIA OF MYSTICISM.

RITUALS. LOST LANGUAGES.

SYMBOLS OF POWER.

SPIRITS. INCANTATIONS. PRINCIPALITIES.

AND THE MUCH DARKER THINGS.

BUT ALL OF IT-- THE ART, THE UNDERSTANDING, THE CONTROL-- IT ALL RELIES ON ***PRECISION***.

THERE IS AN ORDER THAT MUST BE ADHERED TO.

AND URGENCY... DESPERATION... THESE THINGS DEFEAT ORDER.

THEY BRING CHAOS.

AND ***CHAOS...***

IT BRINGS THE FALL.

LATER.

UHHHHHH...

WUH...

WHAT... WHERE...

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

WHERE DO YOU THINK, NECROMANCER?

EXACTLY WHERE YOUR RUINOUS WAYS END...

FEIGN REVERENCE.

KNOW TERROR.

FOR YOU GO NOW TO SEE ***RABUM ALAL.***

OUR MASTER IS MERCILESS, AND THIS IS THE PATH TO OBLIVION...

WE CAN GO NO FURTHER, PRIEST.

WHAT DID THEY MEAN... THEY CAN GO NO FURTHER?

NO *SEEING* SWAN CAN WITHSTAND THE BLINDING LIGHT OF THE GREAT DESTROYER...

YES...

MANY YEARS AGO, I LEFT THE FLOCK AND DUG OUT MY EYES WITH MY OWN HANDS SO THAT I MIGHT SERVE AT HIS FEET...

RABUM ALAL SAYS ONLY THE BLIND CAN WITHSTAND THE BRILLIANCE OF THE SUN.

AND WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL HIM--THE ONE ALL THINGS ORBIT...

YOU SHOULD KNOW, THERE IS NO ARCHIVE IN HIS GREAT LIBRARY THAT IS HIDDEN FROM HIS TERRIBLE GAZE...

AND THE ONLY REASON YOU LIVE WHILE THE OTHER PRIESTS DO NOT IS THAT YOU, NECROMANCER, CAUGHT HIS EYE.

HE DEMANDED THAT YOU BE BROUGHT BEFORE HIM...AND SO WE HAVE DONE HIS BIDDING...

FAREWELL, FOOLISH MAN... I HOPE HE BURNS THE SKIN FROM YOUR TRESPASSING BONES.

HELLO?

ENTER.

IN ALL THE WORLDS, IN ALL THE UNIVERSES...

I WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED TO SEE **YOU** HERE.

HELLO, STEPHEN...
IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG.

MY GOD...
DOOM? HOW IS THIS...
YOU'RE RABUM ALAL?
I AM.
I'VE BUILT A RELIGION...AND IT HAS STOKED A GRAND FIRE WITHIN ME.
ONE HOT ENOUGH AND WELL SUITED FOR THE TASK AT HAND.
WE'RE READY FOR WAR, STEPHEN.
I HAVE DISCIPLES, BUT I ALWAYS HAVE ROOM FOR MORE...
YOU REMEMBER OWEN REECE?
THE MOLECULE MAN. YES.
HE IS AN ORACLE FOR THE TIMES.
ALL THE PIECES ARE COMING TOGETHER.
ALL THE THINGS WE'VE BUILT WILL SOON BE CRUMBLING DOWN.
BECAUSE THEY'RE OUT THERE...WAITING. THE IVORY KINGS. THE BEYONDERS...
AND HOW CAN WE DEFEAT THEM? WE COGS IN THEIR WELL-OILED APOCALYPSE MACHINE?

"FOR IT TAKES A GOD TO KILL A GOD."

ZONE